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TRENDS AND SPECIFICS OF AGROECOTOURISM DEVELOPMENT

Agroecotourism — tourist travel for the purpose of getting acquainted with the natural, agricultural and cultural potential of the Republic of Belarus, its regions, localities, national traditions in the process of recreation, health improvement, temporary stay in agro-eco farmsteads, as well as the activities of individuals and agricultural organisations [1].

The main feature of agroecotourism is that, due to current global trends and increasing urbanisation of cities, it is gaining popularity, displacing some other types of tourism. However, not every country has the potential for development in this area.

The Republic of Belarus is an agrarian country, and therefore it can become one of the leaders in the provision of tourism services in this area. Rural areas of the country have potential for agroecotourism development due to their natural beauty, unique traditions and culture.

Belarusian villages attract foreign tourists with their ecologically clean areas, rich history and national customs. Many farms offer the opportunity to stay in country houses, participate in agricultural work, attend master classes in national crafts and cooking.

In recent years, the government of Belarus has actively supported the development of agroecotourism, making it a priority for the sustainable social and economic development of the country. An example of this is the Presidential Decree № 116 «On alienation of residential houses in rural areas and improvement of work with empty houses». Buying a house in the countryside for one basic unit will contribute to the creation of guest-houses or farms where tourists can learn about the rural lifestyle, participate in farm work and enjoy picturesque landscapes [2].

Another advantage of Belarus is its rich natural resources. There are about 11 thousand lakes, more than 11,8 thousand rivers and streams on the territory of our country. And the real pride is forests: one of the main renewable resources and the most important national wealth.

Considering the benefits accruing to the country from the development of agroecotourism, the following can be highlighted:

1. Economic benefit, as it contributes to the development of rural areas and increases the income of local residents. Tourists visiting agro farmsteads spend money on accommodation, buying local products and services, which contributes to the development of the local economy;

2. Ecological benefits. The development of agroecotourism can also contribute to the conservation of natural resources and ecological balance in rural areas;

3. Cultural development. One of the advantages of agroecotourism is the opportunity to preserve traditional agricultural practices and culture. Tourists can participate in agricultural work, learn about local traditions and customs, which contributes to the preservation of cultural heritage;

4. Humanisation of society — removal of urban-rural contradictions.

In summary, the prospects for the development of agroecotourism in the Republic of Belarus are promising. Given the increasing interest in environmentally friendly forms of recreation and tourism, it can be expected that agroecotourism will continue to develop and attract both local residents and foreign tourists.

References

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